



Notice of Public Meeting



LOW LEVELS OF BENZENE DETECTED NEAR OLD POWAY LANDFILL

Date: Thurs. March 30, 2006
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Poway Community Park Auditorium

The County of San Diego Department of Environmental Health, Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (RWQCB), will be hosting a public meeting to discuss the detection of benzene in subsurface soil gas and ground water, and describe what actions are being taken.

***Residents in the vicinity of Dehia Street
and
El Mar Avenue are encouraged to attend***

Old Poway Landfill

Benzene has been detected during routine environmental monitoring of the landfill and surrounding area. Other chemicals have been found at low concentrations, but benzene is of most concern. The preliminary data collected does not show a definitive human health risk; however the LEA and RWQCB have ordered additional sampling and analysis of the site. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the preliminary results and describe proposed future actions.

What we know:

- Routine sampling by the County Department of Public Works (DPW) in the neighborhood immediately south of the landfill showed low levels of benzene and other chemicals in the soil vapor and ground water
- The County of San Diego DPW is investigating to find the source, location and concentration of benzene and other chemicals on, and adjacent to, the landfill
- The benzene concentrations found below the ground in the residential area were extremely low--in the parts per billion range
- No actual exposure to benzene has been confirmed. Benzene was not detected in the neighborhood outdoor air samples
- Short term exposures near this site are not expected to affect health. The air at gas stations contains benzene levels several thousands times higher than the levels detected near the Poway landfill

- Long term (lifetime) exposures to higher levels of benzene can increase the risk of cancer and can cause other health effects
- The potential risk to human health if benzene exposure from this site were allowed to continue long term are unknown at this time
- Even if health risks are ruled out by further testing, or are very low, DPW will be required to control landfill gas migrating from the site

What is benzene and where does it come from?

- Benzene is a widely used chemical and can be found in:
 - solvents
 - gasoline, gasoline exhaust and in the air at gasoline stations
 - plastics, nylon and other synthetic fibers manufacturing
- Benzene is also a by-product of forest fires and cigarette smoke

What is being done?

- The LEA and the RWQCB are overseeing and reviewing the investigations conducted by the County DPW
- Additional samples of soil, soil vapor and ground water will be collected and analyzed to evaluate the risk to public health and safety
- The landfill, street runoff, utility lines, and the recent wildfire will be investigated as potential sources
- Additional public meetings will be held to discuss the results of the additional sampling and future actions

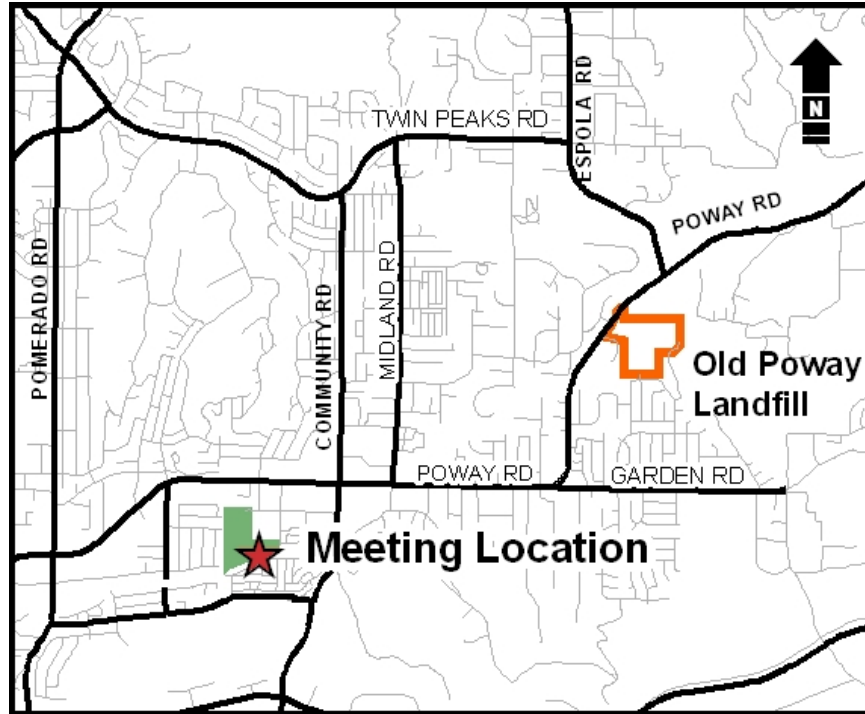
Background of the landfill:

- The closed Poway landfill, located south of Poway Road, west of Espola Road and north of Dehia Street, is a solid waste landfill that was operated by the County DPW from 1949 – 1975
- This landfill accepted residential, commercial and agricultural wastes

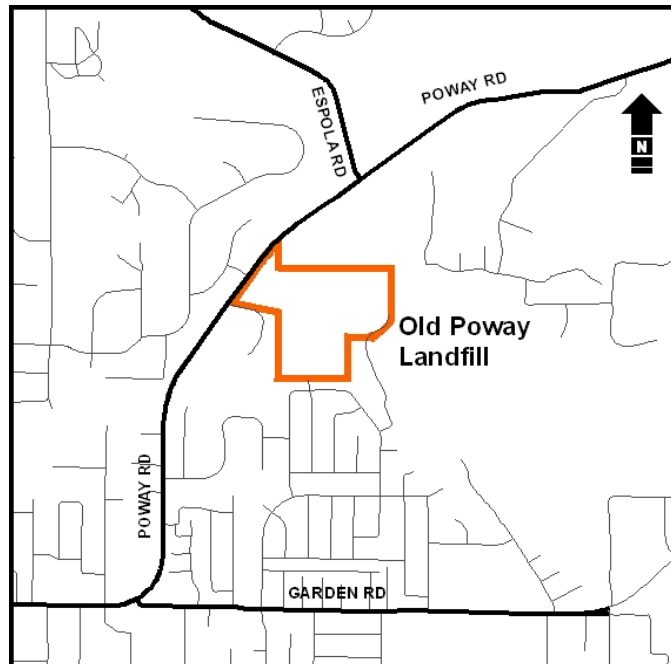
What can residents do to help the investigation??

- attend the public meeting
- allow DPW to conduct soil vapor sampling on selected private properties
- review available information at <http://www.sdcdeh.org> or Poway Library

Meeting Location
Poway Community Park Auditorium
13094 Civic Center Drive, Poway
7:00 pm on Thursday March 30, 2006



Area Detail:



For more information
please call DEH at (858) 694-2888